

Report of the Legal Aid Clinic

The Legal Aid Clinic has completed two years as a regular department of the law school. When the clinic was first organized it was operated by the Family Bureau and the Barristers' Club. The Family Bureau and the Barristers' Club are still integral parts of the clinic's program as each agency is called on to assist in the work. If the case involves any question which may be called a social problem, the case is referred to the Family Bureau for investigation or for treatment. If the case needs court action, the Legal Aid Committee of the Barristers' Club is called upon for assistance.

The clinic has been endeavoring to furnish the students with law office and court experience. Throughout all the work emphasis is laid on the necessity of making memoranda of all steps taken in the course of the case. The advantage of keeping this record is seen when the attorney is attempting to evaluate the amount of his fees. The student is also given experience in the preparation of a case for trial. Most of the cases handled are default divorce cases but the case is prepared with all the formality of a more complicated trial.

In addition to this legal training the clinic is cooperating with the School of Social Administration in working together upon some common problems. It is anticipated that this effort will bring about a greater appreciation on the part of the lawyer and the social worker of the point of view of each other in those problems which overlap—that is, in those cases in which legal relations are in issue, yet the questions of personality outweigh questions of mere events.

This cooperative effort the past year has included a comparative study of particular cases and also a study of the court system of the state by means of visits to the various courts. The court procedure is discussed in joint meetings from the different points of view.

The clinic has endeavored to give the students some contact with the problems of title search and abstract examination. Usually one session is devoted to a conference on title problems with a practicing lawyer specializing in that field. Often problems are assigned so the student is required to make a title search.

A variety of smaller problems encountered by the young lawyer are studied by an assignment at the office of the Public Defender in Columbus. Here cases are encountered which differ from many of those coming to the clinic.

The accompanying tables show the number of cases handled by the clinic during the past year ending October first. The total, while not so large as during the first year, is sufficient to furnish a reasonably satisfactory amount of experience for the student. The program of the clinic now seems reasonably assured, so the faculty of the law school now requires all students to take the course unless excused.

These tables show the number of new cases each month according to general type and also show the type of disposition of cases. Among the cases coming to the clinic there are a number which come from students. These are largely matters of information, but they give the clinic an interesting problem to work upon. The number of these student cases are listed separately. Because of the connection which the clinic has with the social agencies of the city the majority of cases involve domestic relations. However, no action is taken in any divorce case unless some social agency has investigated the case and has recommended action from the social aspects of the case and can assure the clinic that a regular attorney fee cannot be provided.

The table showing disposition indicates the comparatively small number of cases ($12\frac{1}{2}$ per cent) which get into court where the assistance of an outside attorney is necessary. For that number, however, the Barristers' Club, through its Legal Aid Committee, has been ever ready to give its assistance.

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New Cases

Month	Totals	Contracts	Torts	Property	Domestic Relations	Misc.	Student Cases
October	26	3	4	5	12	2	6
November	36	4	5	3	21	3	13
December	29	2	4	1	18	4	7
January	27	4	3	2	13	5	14
February	27	4	3	1	16	3	8
March	29	3	3	1	17	5	5
April	38	3	2	2	21	10	12
May	32	6	4	1	18	3	9
June	29	0	1	4	20	4	5
July	30	5	4	1	14	6	5
August & September ...	39	4	3	0	25	7	5
Totals	342	38	36	21	195	52	89

Cases Closed

Month	Totals	Refused First	Advice or Referred	Litigation	Terminated by Client	Other Disposition	Assigned to Attorney	Referred to Attorney	Referred to Family Bureau
October .	31	5	9	6	6	5	3	1	10
November	29	5	10	0	5	9	0	3	12
December	20	2	7	2	4	5	4	0	14
January .	36	2	12	2	11	9	2	0	10
February	31	2	11	4	9	5	0	1	13
March ...	34	2	7	2	12	11	1	0	17
April ...	31	1	11	3	13	3	0	2	17
May ...	27	2	13	2	4	6	4	0	16
June ...	19	3	4	3	5	4	0	1	17
July	34	1	11	5	8	9	5	3	11
August & September	46	3	10	13	9	11	10	1	18
Totals	338	28	105	42	86	77	25	12	155